

Holiday Safety Tips

Christmas Tree and Candle Safety

Christmas Tree:

- ✓ Keep trees away from ignition sources such as fireplaces, space heaters, candles, and overhead lights.
- ✓ When decorating Christmas trees, always use safe tree lights. Some lights are designed only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. All lights should be listed by an independent laboratory.
- ✓ Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights. Any string of lights with worn, frayed, or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.
- ✓ Check your strands of lights to determine the number of strands that may be connected. Connect no more than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- ✓ Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- ✓ Never use lit candles to decorate a tree, and place them well away from tree branches.
- ✓ When purchasing a live or cut tree, check for freshness. Do not purchase a tree that is dry or dropping needles. Prior to placing your cut tree in a stand, re-cut the trunk just above the original cut. This will allow the tree to draw water. Check water level daily to maintain freshness.
- ✓ When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire retardant.
- ✓ Children are fascinated with Christmas trees. Keep a watchful eye on them when around the tree and do not let them play with the wiring or lights.
- ✓ Make sure the tree is located away from heat sources, such as fireplaces and space heaters. Try to position the tree near an outlet to eliminate the need for extension cords. If using extension cords make sure they are large enough to carry intended load.
- ✓ Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against the house.

Candle Safety:

- ✓ Always stay in the room where candles are being burned.
- ✓ Keep lit candles away from curtains, mattresses, and anything that can burn.
- ✓ Keep candles, matches, and lighters away from children.
- ✓ Use sturdy candle holders that won't tip over or burn and are large enough to contain dripping wax. Burn candles on sturdy, uncluttered surfaces.
- ✓ When lighting candles, keep hair and clothing away from the flame.
- ✓ Extinguish candles when they burn to within two inches of their holder.
- ✓ Avoid using candle during power outages. Have flashlights and batteries on hand for emergency lighting.
- ✓ The best way to extinguish candles is with a snuffer or soft, direct breath. Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing.